

MR1683-851

Serial Number: 10/687,089

Response to Office Action dated 13 March 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 13 March 2007. Responsive to that Office Action, Claims 1-2 have been amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Declaration for being defective. More specifically, the Examiner stated that the Declaration is defective for not identifying the inventor's city and state/country of residence. Presumably, the P.O. Box address identified as the mailing address in the originally-filed Declaration prompted this objection. A Substitute Declaration executed by the Inventor which now identifies the Inventor's actual residence address as the mailing address is submitted herewith.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Beckert, et al. reference in view of the Shu, et al. reference. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Beckert, et al. fails to explicitly disclose the use of a USB socket, but cited Shu, et al. for disclosing as much. The Examiner then concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have replaced Beckert, et al.'s floppy disk drive with a USB communication port in view of

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Shu, et al. The Examiner additionally cited the Amro, et al. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0028629 for providing such motivation in its observation that floppy disks are rapidly becoming obsolete.

As newly-amended independent Claim 1 now more clearly recites, Applicant's digital audio assembly includes among its combination of features a digital signal processor (DSP) to which each of various other units, including the claimed "digital analog converter (DAC)," "universal serial bus (USB) socket," and "secure digital memory card (SD card) socket" are commonly "connected." The digital audio assembly also includes among its combination of features "sound-source input" and "sound-effect input/output" ports both connected to the digital analog converter "for conversion between digital and analog representations of sound signals transmitted thereby," as newly-amended independent Claim 1 also now more clearly recites.

The full combination of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims is nowhere disclosed by the cited references. Note in this regard that while the primarily-cited Beckert, et al. reference does disclose certain functions included in Applicant's digital audio assembly, that reference clearly prescribes a vehicle computer system formed by three distinct and separable "modules" generally capable of operating either "cooperatively, or independently, of one another," (column 2: lines 40-41). Given such

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modular construction, each of the modules, namely the support module 62, faceplate module 60, and computer module 64, employs its own local processing capability. The faceplate module 60 schematically illustrated in Fig. 5, for instance, employs a DSP 80 and a field programmable gate array (FPGA) 306 in this regard, while the support module 62 schematically illustrated in Fig. 4 locally employs, for instance, a multimedia audio driver 78, and sound controllers 208, 210, and the computer module 64 schematically illustrated in Fig. 7 locally employs a microprocessor 100, FPGA 410, display controller 118, PC card controller 414, and the like. Clearly, Beckert, et al. contemplates the compatability of these local processors with one another; however, the required modularity just as clearly precludes any common "connect[ion]" to the given "DSP... mounted in the digital audio assembly" of such features as a digital analog converter, universal serial bus socket, and secured digital memory card socket (as Claim 1 now more clearly recites).

What is more, the digital analog converters 432 of Beckert, et al., which the Examiner correlated to the claimed digital analog converter, reside only in the computer module 64. Beckert, et al. prescribes these digital analog converters 432 therein merely to be "used to interface to the security system," (column 10: lines 57-59). To the extent that Beckert, et al. discloses the use of a digital analog converter, therefore, it clearly is neither to be "connected to the DSP" mounted

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and shared in the digital audio assembly, nor used “for conversion between digital and analog representations” actually “of sound signals transmitted” by “a sound-source input” or “sound-effect input/output port” provided in the digital audio assembly, as Claim 1 further clarifies.

Given such deficient disclosure of the Beckert, et al. reference, the secondarily-cited Shu, et al. and Amro, et al. references are found to be quite ineffectual to the present patentability analysis. Shu, et al. merely discloses a computer system for integrating various car electronic devices which, incidentally, makes use of a USB port. Neither this reference nor the Amro, et al. reference cited by the Examiner for providing the required motivation remedies the deficiencies of Beckert, et al.'s disclosures.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the cited Beckert, et al., Shu, et al., and Amro, et al. references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

It is believed that the subject Patent Application has now been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If there are any charges associated with this filing, the Honorable Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account #18-2011 for such charges.

Respectfully submitted,  
For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE



Jun Y. Lee

Registration No.: 40,262

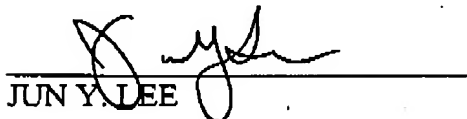
Dated: 6/13/2007

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit # 2615 facsimile number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below.

FOR: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE

  
JUN Y. LEE

6/13/2007  
Date